

My Dear,

Launceston 2^d 1825

1825

There is a Cause now trying in Court, which it is believed will be finished this day, if so, my Cause is next on the list and will be reached, and tried, it may however not be reached before to morrow in the afternoon and in that case, you need not expect me this Friday night. - If the Cause should be reached tomorrow morning, and then if any thing should occur to put it off, or prevent the trial from going on. ~~at~~ at this Court, I will start for home in the afternoon -

Yours affectionately
husband -

Jno. Forster

M^{rs}. Mary Forster

PAID
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Mr Mary Forster

Harrisburg

Mail

Dear Father:

Pittsburgh Jan^y 18th 1836.

1836 Jan. 18

I received your most excellent letter dated Jan^y 9th; the sentiments therein contained have produced such an effect upon my mind, that I feel as if I could not disdain ever to offend against so good & kind a father; the purport of such a letter from a father to a son, can only be felt but by those who have received them: My wicked & dissipated conduct for a length of time, could not have been otherwise than have brought the angry displeasure of a Father upon me, I know that it has:—I know that nothing now but a constant life of obedience, good conduct, soberness, honesty, & uprightness, can bring back to me the good character I have so unfortunately lost: that a new era has risen in my conduct. I have every authority in communicating to you; since I have returned to Pittsburgh, my course of life has ^{been} uniform & obedient, together with deep & sincere convictions that I have been almost too degraded to belong to a family as respectable as ours. It will take a long time on my part to regain a good character; an opportunity is now before me for so doing, & I have now made a solemn declaration that my walk & conversation hereafter shall be of such a nature as Never No! Never to bring disgrace upon my father & family, that such an alteration has taken place in my conduct, time only will prove to you. I apply myself very closely to business; & have scarcely any time except in the evenings; which I appropriate to study, & by the kindness of Mr. Alfred Marks I have got access to his Library which contains works to ponder over the little time I have to devote to study; there is no

excuse for me to offer, why I should not regain a lost reputation: a good reputation I am determined to regain tho' it should take years of repentance & submission; I still retain the hope that through the dim vista of time I can see myself a comfort to my family & an ornament to society! Do not let these thoughts be felt light & transient, No! they come from a deep & repentant heart; a heart full of penitence & sorrow for the past.

I received Thomas's affectionate letter some time since, but owing to the great quantity of work on hand, I could not get time to answer it; I hope he will excuse me, for I assure him I have to work very hard, frequently after 10 & 11 o'clock at night: I have not those easy times that I had at Home.

Mr. Wilson is very kind to me, & does all he can to make my situation comfortable; his wife is a kind & affectionate woman, & we live ^{in a life} of contentment amongst each other.

Thomas mentions in his letter your condition as a family at Lewistown. I am glad to hear that you have settled down safe, without any accident; you may perhaps live happier there than you would in Harrisburg, although there is many difficulties to encounter on moving to a new place; he mentions that the house is not as comfortable as the one you left, I expected so, although I think that it must be a healthy place from representation, I also believe that mother will be more contented ^{there} being in the immediate vicinity of her friends. John & his family I presume are still living in H. I suppose he has given

up the notion of coming to Pittsburgh. I do not wish to say any thing; but I think it a poor place for a man commencing business, being now overstocked with almost every species of business; I would like very much for him to live here, it would be a recreating home in my lonely hours.

You mention in your letter the unfortunate failure of our brother Joshua; it is a solemn warning to his younger brothers. I do not wish to say more; you know my feelings. The Almighty I believe has brought these misfortunes upon our family for wise & good purposes.

I must close; but may I rest in assurance that nothing but strict obedience to the commands of my master, & the disposition to do hereby, with the belief that God will forgive my sins towards an injured but affectionate father, may be received by you as a test of the sincerity of the heart of your Son
Washington.

My love to Mother, Thos, &c

Enclosed in ^{this} your letter I received \$5; you may rest assured that I shall apply it to a good purpose —
W.



Mr. Geo. Foster

Lowell

Mass.

1853 Mar. 24

Dear Benjamin Harrisburg March 24th 1853
I yesterday remitted to you twenty three
dollars in Banks notes, particularly described in my letter.
I trust you have them. - You will please say to the
Mess^{rs}. Longs, that I will forward to them, a draft on
Philad^a - for the amount of my present indebtedness -
within the second week of the ensuing month -

affectionately, your Father
Wm. Foster

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the matter of the ...
I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the result of the ...
I have no objection to your making such use of the facts as you may think proper, but I beg to say that I am not responsible for the ...
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. J. Foster